



# The Front Porch

The Newsletter of the City of Springfield,  
Planning and Development Department's  
Neighborhood Conservation Office  
Fall/Winter 2003 Issue

## Mission:

Neighborhoods are the building blocks of our community. Springfield must strive to promote strong neighborhoods that instill pride in their residents. Therefore, the Neighborhood Conservation Office is committed to working with the Community to ensure strong viable neighborhoods.

## Voters to Decide on Renewal of ¼ Cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax

On Feb. 3, 2004, Springfield voters will be asked to renew the 1/4-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax to ensure that funding continues for priority infrastructure projects. This sales tax will go towards new and continued projects which address a variety of needs in all areas of the city. All projects that have been proposed in the past have been completed as promised, or are currently under construction as illustrated throughout this article.

Many new initiatives proposed for funding under a renewed 1/4-cent sales tax have a neighborhood focus. New neighborhood-related projects proposed for funding range from dangerous and boarded building abatement, to acquisition of vacant lots for housing development.



The renovation of Historic City Hall was completed in 2002. The 109-year-old landmark received exterior cleaning, roof replacement, exterior lighting, partial window replacement and a modernized elevator.

- **Targeted Neighborhood Projects:** \$2,100,000 is allocated over the next three year period to fund Minor neighborhood improvement projects and priority projects identified by citizens during the Neighborhood Assessments program. Examples of projects include stormwater improvements, traffic calming, traffic signals, bus shelters.



Four new bus turnouts along National Avenue were funded by the Capital Improvements Tax. This project has made significant improvements in traffic flow.

### New Neighborhood Related Projects Include:

- **Dangerous/Boarded Buildings Program:** \$825,000 is allocated over the next three year period to acquire dangerous or boarded structures and fund demolition or rehabilitation where applicable.



The Capital Improvements Tax funded the Doling Park Master Plan, which features the new 44,000-square-foot Doling Family Center.

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### Options Available For Leaf Disposal This Fall



The best recycling process for grass and leaves is to mulch the yard waste while mowing. Grass and leaves replace important nutrients back into the soil which then improves the appearance of our lawns. This is also more convenient because it eliminates needless bagging of our grass and leaves along with transporting and hauling costs.



Composting also provides residents with a convenient and economical option for reusing grass and leaves without having to haul these materials to an approved processing facility. The composted materials can then be used to enhance the soil in flower and vegetable gardens. To learn more about composting grass and leaves you can call the recycling hotline, 864-1904.



As a third option, the City of Springfield's Yard Waste Recycling Center (YRC) processes grass clippings and leaves into compost for reuse as a soil amendment and then distributes the compost to residents that use the compost for landscaping or garden needs.

The City also accepts small quantities of yard waste at the Franklin Recycling Center, 731 N. Franklin, and at the Lone Pine Recycling Center, 3020 S. Lone Pine. This recycling option is being offered to City residents at a minimal costs (donation requested) to cover transportation costs to the YRC. The YRC accepts yard waste from City residents at no charge.

Remember, City ordinances prohibit anyone from placing grass clippings or leaves into the street, waterways or in roadside ditches which causes flooding and water pollution.

Should you have any additional questions contact Barbara Lucks at 864-1965.

**Ep**

### Footbridge Placed on National Historic Register

The community celebrated the addition of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge to the National Historic Register of Historic Places. The Footbridge restoration was completed in conjunction with the \$268,000 streetscape improvements for this portion of Commercial Street. Built in 1902, this bridge is one of the oldest and only bridges of its kind in the state of Missouri.

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The Jefferson Avenue Footbridge spans the railroad tracks and connects Commercial Street to the Woodland Heights neighborhood to the north.

Community Leaders and staff held a ribbon cutting to honor the completion of the streetscape project and the placement of the Footbridge on the National Historic Register.



### "The Front Porch"

**CITY of  
SPRINGFIELD**



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## Quality Ozark Streams Starts in OUR Backyard.....

Do you enjoy fishing, swimming or boating in our many nearby beautiful lakes, streams and rivers? Or, perhaps, you just enjoy relaxing near the water. Ensuring we continue to enjoy the abundant opportunities for recreation on area waters is everybody's responsibility. Protecting both ground and surface water is a high priority in our community.

The City of Springfield is now required by Federal Law to develop and implement a plan to control the amount of pollution in our stormwater runoff. Springfield is the first city in the state to receive the required permit to develop this plan.

Stormwater runoff is rain and snow melt that runs off the surface of buildings, parking lots and yards and into nearby storm water pipes and ditches and directly into Ozarks streams, rivers and lakes. It does NOT go to a treatment facility.

Stormwater runoff can contain sediment from erosion of soil; nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen from fertilizers, grass clippings and leaves; bacteria from animal waste or decaying vegetation; and many other pollutants such as petroleum products or metals from automobiles and industrial activity.

It won't be easy. Nothing worthwhile ever is. The *Springfield News-Leader* describes this undertaking by the City as "an honor and a challenge." Every citizen of Springfield has an opportunity to make an important contribution.

### ***One person can make a difference. Here's how :***

#### *Dispose of yardwaste properly.*

Placing grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste in streets and ditches is a City ordinance violation, and leads to increased flooding and degrades water quality. Consider composting or using the City's Yard Waste Recycling Center to dispose of yard waste without harming the environment. Call the City's Recycling Hotline at 864-1904 for more information.

#### *Dispose of household chemicals properly.*

Motor oil, pesticides and paints are examples of many household chemicals that, if placed in the storm water system or on the ground, can harm our streams or groundwater. Residents of Springfield/Greene County can take these items (generated from households -- businesses are not included) to the City's Household Chemical Collection Center at no charge. For more information or to make an appointment, call the City's Recycling Hotline at 864-1904.

#### *Fertilize smart!*

A simple soil test will tell you if your lawn needs fertilizer. Applying excess fertilizer is a waste of time and money and adds harmful nutrients to streams. To learn more about soil tests, call the University of Missouri Extension Office at 862-9284. To learn more about environmentally friendly lawn care, call *Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods* at 864-2006.

#### *Help watch for illegal dumping.*

If you see someone dumping into a stream, call the City's Storm Water Services Division at 864-1901 or notify us by submitting a Citizen Service Request at [www.springfieldmo.gov.org](http://www.springfieldmo.gov.org).

**FP**







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- **Neighborhood Initiative and Housing Development:** \$775,000 is available to fund vacant lot acquisition and associated infrastructure improvements.

The tax also will continue funding for small-scale neighborhood improvements such as sidewalks, reforestation programs and intersection upgrades. At the same time, the Level Property Tax will be on the ballot for renewal and will continue to fund sewer and water treatment plant expansions as well as a new fire station.



The new Fire Station 8 located at 1405 S. Scenic features a community room and state-of-the-art equipment.

The 1/4-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax will be represented on the ballot by the following language:

*Shall the municipality of Springfield, Missouri, fund high priority capital improvements by continuing to impose a sales tax of one-fourth of one percent for an additional three years?*

*Note: There will be no increase in the current sales tax level if the one-fourth of one percent Capital Improvements Sales Tax is continued.*

*For questions or comments regarding Capital Improvements Program, please call the Planning and Development Department at 864-1033.*

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